



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **03/15/2011 Minutes**

### **VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP**

**MARCH 15, 2011 MEETING (Approved, April 5, 2011)**

### **SPY POND COMMITTEE**

**Town Hall Annex, First Floor**

**In attendance:** Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Stroker Rogovin.  
**From Arlington Land Trust:** Chris Leich, Ann LeRoyer, John Page, Brian Rehrig, Ted Siegan, Nathaniel Stevens

**Facilitator:** Jacob Friis      **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

**Next meetings:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 5, May 3, June 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6.  
Town Hall Annex, first floor.

The minutes of the January and February meetings were approved with minor corrections.

#### **Discussion of Elizabeth Island with ALT Board:**

- Jacob listed the highlights of what the committee was doing for Spy Pond: cleanups, egg addling, phragmites control project. ALT will pay for seed for the former phragmites patch at Kelwyn Manor Park; the conservation stewardship fund will pay for seed for the island.
- ALT is now working on developing a stewardship plan and stewardship committee for the island. The goal is to keep it in its present natural state and open to the public from dawn to dusk. Some minimal changes are being considered: “hardening” the landing site to prevent erosion, but without building a structure; signage, a few benches; trail around the island.
- Also under consideration: a one-day celebration in the spring or early summer, with tours of the island, especially for donors, highlighting its plant and bird life; maybe educational scavenger hunts; boat races by the Boys & Girls Club?

#### **Warrant articles:**

- Waterbodies: The Fin Com says that an article can't be recommended asking for more than the original proposal, so the requests in the two articles can't be merged. It recommended no action on the Vision 2020 article (\$15,000) but added its wording asking for a report from the Town Manager to the Con Com article (\$20,000), which it recommended unanimously.
- On the no-wake articles the Board of Selectmen recommended no action. We will make copies of Bob Noyes' letter on this issue available at Town Meeting.
- It was noted that the planned adult rowing program won't be held this summer.

#### **Phragmites:**

- Dead reeds have been cut down in all of Kelwyn Manor Park but only about 1/3 of the island. ALT opposed the use of any power tools on the island. Jane suggested that stalks could be used like mulch on the proposed path.
- The best time for seeding for replacement growth is late April to early May, on bare ground rather than in plant litter. Cut stalks without seed heads could be left in place to decay. “Plugs” of plants like cattail could be bought in summer, when they have grown bigger, and planted in holes cleared in the cover of dead stalks. Cattails spread quickly; perhaps some excess from Hill's Pond or McClenen Park could be transplanted to Spy Pond.
- Joey noted that when it comes to Elizabeth Island, we should leave all decisions to ALT and just offer to cooperate, except for continuing to treat the goose eggs.

#### **Other business:**

- The fertilizer flyer is done and about to be distributed.
- Trails Day: Saturday, May 7, 9-1, bring lunch and water and tools against invasives. Stroker reviewed the assignments for publicity, etc.

- EcoFest: Saturday, March 26, 10-2. Our display will include the picture boards with pictures of the phragmites project added.
- Speaker: Stroker knows someone who could be invited to our May 3 meeting to speak about fish in Spy Pond – a good opportunity to invite interested people from the census survey. There are 22 so far; Jacob will contact them.

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